DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kevin Borg on June 15, 2009.

In the claims

Claims 22, 52, 68 and 79 of the application have been amended as shown in the APPENDIX (3 pages) attached to the end of this Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 22-66, 68-93 are allowed.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert T. Chou whose telephone number is 571-272-6045. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi H. Pham, can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Albert T Chou/
Examiner, Art Unit 2416
July 10, 2009

APPENDIX

Deleted: Previously presented

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A packet voice processing circuit comprising:

an interface for receiving voice data packets via a packet network, each of the voice data packets comprising digital voice data and an associated group identifier;

a queue for storing the digital voice data;

a processor for detecting a change in the group identifier associated with the queued digital voice data; and

wherein the processor stops the processing of queued digital voice data for a predetermined amount of time upon detecting that the group identifier associated with the queued digital voice data is different than the group identifier associated with the last digital voice data processed,

the processor continuing processing of queued digital voice data, otherwise.

Deleted: Previously presented

Claim 52. (Currently amended) A method of processing voice packets received over a packet network, the method comprising:

Receiving, at a communication device, digital voice data packets communicated via the packet network, each of the digital voice data packets comprising digital voice data and an associated group identifier;

queuing the digital voice data from the received digital voice data packets;

monitoring the group identifier associated with the queued digital voice data to detect a change in group identifier;

stopping the processing of queued digital voice data in the communication device for a predetermined amount of time, when a change in group identifier is detected; and

continuing processing of queued digital voice data, otherwise.

Claim 68. (Currently amended) A method of processing voice for communication over a packet network, the method comprising:

monitoring ~~digital~~ voice ~~data~~ in a communication device to detect a lack of voice activity for at least a predefined period of time;

assigning a different group identifier to ~~the~~ digital voice data upon detecting a lack of voice for at least the predefined period of time;

refraining from assigning a different group identifier to the digital voice data, ~~otherwise~~ if a lack of voice for at least the predefined period of time is not detected;

packetizing the digital voice data and the assigned group identifier, in the communication device, to produce digital voice data packets; and

transmitting the digital voice data packets via the packet network.

Claim 79. (Currently amended) A method of processing voice for communication over a packet network, the method comprising:

monitoring ~~digital~~ voice, in a communication device, ~~data~~ to detect a lack of speech for at least a predefined period of time;

processing ~~the~~ digital voice data and an identifier, in the communication device, to produce digital voice packets for transmission via the packet network;

changing the processing of the digital voice data and the identifier, if a lack of speech for at least the predefined period of time is detected; and

refraining from changing the processing of the digital voice data and the identifier, otherwise.